



INTERNATIONAL TRUCK AND ENGINE CORPORATION
2025 WAYNE TRACE, P.O. BOX 535, FORT WAYNE, IN 46801-0535

TRUCK GROUP

RECEIVED
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2004 JAN 05 A 11:44
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

December 23, 2003

04V-009 ① of ③

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20590

Subject: Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report

Pursuant to Part 573.6 (c) (1), this Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report is submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration by **International Truck and Engine Corporation**.

(1) IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLES [Part 573.6 (c)(2)]

- Vehicle Models Involved:
 - 4700 Low Profile
- Vehicle Manufacturing Dates:
 - 12/02/1993 thru 4/18/2001
- Other Identification Necessary to Describe Vehicles:
 - Vehicles modified with a Goodrich Corporation VELVET-RIDE rear suspension system.

(2) COMPONENT MANUFACTURER [Part 573.6 (c)(2)(iv)]

- This report does relate to a component supplied by a manufacturer other than International Truck and Engine Corporation. The equipment manufacturer and contact name is:

Ed Hart, President
Engineered Polymer Products
Goodrich Corporation
6061 Goodrich Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32226-3409
Tel: (904) 757-3660

(3) **VEHICLE POPULATION INVOLVED** [Part 573.6 (c)(3)]

<i>Model</i>	<i>U.S. Quantity</i>	<i>Canadian Quantity</i>	<i>Mexico Quantity</i>	<i>Export Quantity</i>
4700 LP	19	0	0	0

- Only 19 of the 59 suspension systems, reported by Engineered Polymer Products, Goodrich Corporation on their Initial Information report, as required by Part 573.6 filed with the NHTSA on 11/17/2003, were installed by International Truck and Engine Corporation.

(4) **PERCENTAGE OF VEHICLES ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN DEFECT** [Part 573.6 (c)(4)]

- 100%

(5) **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT** [Part 573.6 (c)(5)]

- The bolts that connect the suspension spring to the rear axle may break and possibly cause the axle to become separated from the vehicle without warning.

(6) **CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF A SAFETY DEFECT or TEST RESULTS THAT LED TO DETERMINATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE** [Part 573.6 (c)(6)(7)]

- 12/20/2002 NHTSA opens investigation, PE02-097
- 3/14/2003 NHTSA first makes contact with International Truck and Engine Corporation concerning an investigation they were conducting with Engineered Polymer Products, Goodrich Corporation
- 3/21/2003 International submitted their response to PE02-097
- 9/15/2003 Engineered Polymer Products, Goodrich Corporation first made contact with International to discuss the NHTSA investigation and the possibility of some sort of field action on the VELVET-RIDE suspension.
- 10/27/2003 International met with Engineered Polymer Products, Goodrich Corporation to discuss the scope of the population and potential field remedies. A recommendation to replace the VELVET-RIDE suspension with an air suspension was made.
- 11/17/2003 Engineered Polymer Products, Goodrich Corporation files an Initial Information Report as required by Part 573.6.
- 12/18/2003 International declares a safety recall

(7) **PROGRAM TO REMEDY DEFECT** [Part 573.6 (c)(8)]

- All VELVET-RIDE suspension systems will be replaced with the International NAV-Air air suspension at no cost to the owner.

(8) **PLAN FOR REIMBURSEMENT** [Part 573.6 (c)(8)(i)]

- Some of the vehicles in this recall fall outside the warranty period; therefore, our plan for reimbursement of pre-notification remedies, on file and dated 2/6/2003 does apply and instructions will be included in the customer notification.

(9) **SCHEDULE FOR RECALL NOTIFICATION** [Part 573.6 (c)(8)(i)]

- Part availability is undetermined as of the date of this report. If parts do not become available within 60 days of the date of this report, dealers and customers will receive an Interim Notice according to the following schedule:
 - Notify International Dealers by: February 13, 2004
 - Notify International Customers by: February 20, 2004

(10) **INTERNATIONAL RECALL NUMBER** [Part 573.6 (c)(11)]

- 03517 (NHTSA number not assigned yet)

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall on (260) 461-1890.

Very truly yours,



R. L. Van Laar

Compliance Manager

INTERNATIONAL TRUCK AND ENGINE CORPORATION